the foreign currency lines of credit available with the latter. Banks have also been advised by RBI that where imports cannot be covered under the lines of credit available with the financial institutions, they may finance such imports. This measure has been taken to ensure that our free exchange resources are not drawn upon.

There is no specific embargo placed on the opening of letters of credit for import of raw materials for the electronics industry. In fact, SBI have already advised its local Head Offices to furnish full information relating to the outstanding letters of credit in respect of import of raw materials for the electronics industry to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI), with a view to exploring the possibilities of covering them under the available lines of credit with the letter.

Government is aware of the likely impact of these measures;, which have been taken on account of the current balance of payments position faced by the country.

Surreptitious import of partially oriented yarn from Taiwan and South Korea

918. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second grade partially oriented yarn is surreptitiously imported under the guise of first quality yarn from Taiwan and South Korea; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such illegal imports?

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THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRl DIGVIJAY SINGH); (a) No such case has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of pepper

919. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of pepper, especially to the Soviet Union, has been affected due to high rates; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to meet the competition from Indonesia, Brazil and Malaysia which offer lower prices than India for this commodity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) It is a fact that Indonesia, Brazil and Malaysia have been offering pepper at lower prices than India. The long-term solution to the problem is increased productivity for which Agriculture Ministry is taking necessary steps. The figures of export of pepper for the last three years are given below: -

1987-88		1988-89*		1989-90	
Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
41011 (37570)	24058 (10695)	38020 (9540)	16420 (4431)	36601 (20020)	15987 (9556)

♦Figures in bracket indicate exports to USSR.